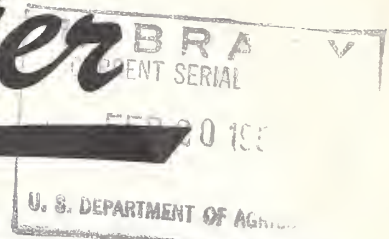
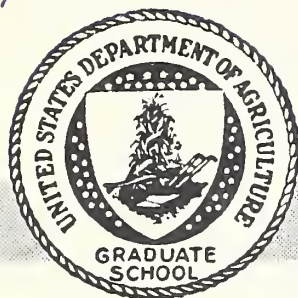


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Newsletter



GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

December 20, 1957

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

The year has quickly come near to its close. It has been a good year for the Graduate School, which has had continuing strength in its faculty, very fine service from many voluntary committees, and an enlarged and stable student registration.

The interest in continuing education among Federal employees has been advanced. The public upsurge of interest in scientific and general education may further speed the advancement of continuing education for employed adults.

I speak for the staff members when I say we have a very deep appreciation for the hearty cooperation and helpfulness that so many individuals have given to the Graduate School during the year.

It is our wish that you may have the full happiness and good cheer that Christmas and the New Year can bring.

Our winter lecture series, FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, which begins January 22, will feature four Americans, with wide experience in this field, and four diplomats from countries where our foreign agricultural programs have an impact.

The Americans are John H. Davis of Harvard University, who will open the series with a discussion of Agriculture in Today's World; O. B. Jesness of the University of Minnesota, who will consider The Farmer's Stake in Foreign Agricultural Programs; Allan B. Kline, former president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, who will discuss Export Disposal of Agricultural Products; and another to be announced later, who will focus attention on The Relationship between Domestic Farm Programs and Foreign Economic Policy.

Insight into how people in other countries look on our foreign agricultural programs will be given in a panel discussion by Ismail Erez, Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Economic Mission; W. C. Hopper, Agricultural Counselor, Embassy of Canada; S. G. Ramachandran, First Secretary of the Embassy of India; and E. S. Schlange-Schoeningen, Agricultural Secretary of the German Embassy.

The series of five lectures will be held on successive Wednesday afternoons at 3 o'clock in Jefferson Auditorium. They are open to the public. There is a good reason to believe each event will draw a capacity house and we suggest that you get there early.

We are indebted for these arrangements to a committee composed of Assistant Secretary Don Paarlberg, chairman, Walter Berger, Ray Ioanes, and O. V. Wells of USDA, George Dietz, AFBF, E. N. Holmgreen, ICA, and Harold A. Vogel, FAO.

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As soon as the Christmas rush has subsided, we hope you will have a chance to look over the schedule of courses for the spring semester. You will note that registration begins February 1 and continues for a week. Classes get under way February 10.

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The 1956-57 Annual Report of the Graduate School is available on request. It is not being mailed to faculty and committee members, but will gladly be sent to those who wish to have it and thus request it..

The Educational Statistics for 1956-57 are also available to those who are interested in having them and ask for a copy.

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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Of 6,597 course registrations in the Graduate School in 1956-57, nearly 43% reported a college degree. These included 30 1/3% with a bachelor's degree, 8% with a master's degree, 2 1/4% with an M.D., 1 3/4% with doctorates in other fields--Ph.D., LL.D., J.D., and 2/5% with an LL.B. Also in the student body were 324 persons who had not completed high school, 1,530 who were high school graduates but had not attended college, and 675 who had gone to business school.

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Although the Graduate School does not grant degrees, nearly 800 students in 1956-57 were taking work to meet degree requirements--127 of them for Ph.D's. A little more than half that number (431) were pointing their efforts toward a certificate of accomplishment.

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The biggest increase in enrollment by departments of instruction was in Mathematics and Statistics, which was up by 38 percent over the previous year. There were also gains in enrollment in Public Administration (nearly 15 percent), Technology (10 percent), and Biological Sciences (nearly 10 percent).

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The big share of Graduate School students has, from the beginning of the school, been employed by the Federal Government. However, our records for 1956-57 show that one in four was either with private industry or in work on a Wage Board schedule.

Of the remainder, nearly half were in Grades GS-3 through GS-7. Two out of ten were in Grades GS-8 through GS-12. We had sixty students in Grades GS-1 and GS-2 and 158 who were in Grades GS-13 through GS-16.

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Our student body has become broadly representative of the Federal Government, the 1956-57 statistics show. We drew students from each Department, the Executive Office of the President, and from Capitol Hill. The biggest number of students came from the Department of Defense but the highest percentage of employees in the Washington area came from the Department of Agriculture. In each 20 employees in Agriculture last year, one was enrolled in the Graduate School.

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We had a view of Mexico--through the eyes of an economist who has been on assignment there for the past two years--at our faculty luncheon in December. James G. Maddox discussed the progress our neighbor to the South is making toward democratic government and in economic growth. It is impressive.

The rate of growth--six percent a year--exceeds that of other Latin American countries and the United States. It has been achieved by government policies to promote savings and private investment and by government investments.

One of the policies is a product of the Mexican Revolution that broke up the great haciendas and has prohibited the accumulation of large land holdings by private owners since that time. The money now being made by the rising class of businessmen cannot go back into land. The Mexican government--by a policy of deliberate inflation--has encouraged the investment of savings in construction, new enterprises, and the expansion of business developments. Along with these, the government has made large investments in highways, schools, hospitals, and in oil and railroads, which are nationalized. The rapid rise in technical knowledge is providing the basis for an industrial society.

Dr. Maddox pointed out that since 1929 Mexico has had a stable government and of the three active parties, the one in the middle represents the majority opinion.

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Those of you who have come to the Graduate School faculty from other colleges have told us how much you miss the opportunity to meet with other instructors and discuss mutual problems. And all of us are aware in general outline if not in specific detail of new concepts and techniques being introduced in college teaching across the country.

A proposal that we arrange a series of lecture-seminars for faculty members was made recently by Governor C. N. Shepardson and members of a committee working with him to study future developments of the Graduate School.

At the November meeting, the General Administration Board approved the proposal and authorized us to implement the recommendation. I have asked Mrs. Constance G. Coblenz to develop plans. You will be hearing about them in the next few weeks.

One proposal is that instructors be invited as guests of the Graduate School to a series of dinner meetings in the cafeteria, that these be scheduled for Friday night, and that the invitation be extended also to the wife or husband of the instructor. What do you think of it?

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Instead of brainstorming, we used a questionnaire to get your ideas for new courses and other changes for the coming year. The suggestions indicate the range of your interests and offer some valuable possibilities. Here are some of the ideas--perhaps you can build on them or give us alternative proposals: Science in the modern world--a non-technical descriptive course for the non-specialist; Antibiotics--a course for scientists dealing with isolation, mode of action, genetics, development of resistance; Electrochemistry and surface chemistry; Numerical weather prediction; Review of algebra, trigonometry, and analytics in preparation for calculus.

Suggestions in administration include: International public personnel administration; Integrated management; Recruiting techniques. Also suggested were: College rhetoric to follow descriptive English; Speech writing; and an IBM executive training course.

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One of the satisfactions in teaching is in the expressions of gratitude from those who have found the instruction helpful. George Young, who teaches our correspondence course, Administration and Supervision, has been getting letters of appreciation from students around the world. These are employees of USIA and ICA in foreign posts. Here are some samples:

From Yugoslavia--"The analyses of each unit have been of great help to me. The course is an excellent one which I intend to recommend to my colleagues."

From Haiti--"I wish I had taken this course 10 years ago."

From Libya--"I regret that the old line Government agencies do not see fit to encourage their personnel to take this and similar courses."

From India--"The Federal agencies have a great need for competent administrators--toward that end, this course is doing a great service. I wish it were mandatory for all administrators and supervisors in Government."

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AMONG OURSELVES

J. K. McClarren has returned from an assignment in Western Europe as a consultant for ICA on agricultural information programs.

E. R. Draheim has accepted a post with the University of Minnesota that will take him to Korea for a two-year assignment. David Korb of the Civil Service Commission will meet Dr. Draheim's class in Human Relations in Management for the remainder of this semester. James Enneis of Health, Education, and Welfare will give the course in Applied Human Relations in Administration that Dr. Draheim was scheduled to give in the spring semester.

Sincerely,


T. Roy Reid
Director